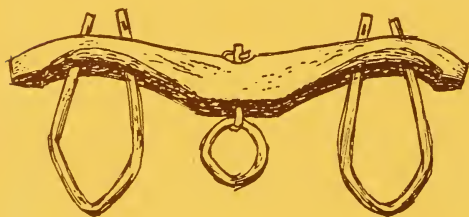


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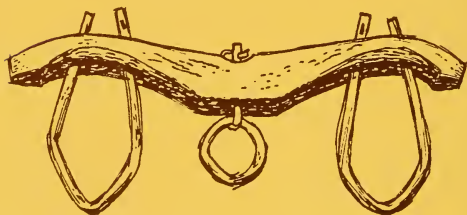
AT LINCOLN'S TOMB

Opening the Campaign
To Raise a Million Dollars

May 15, 1924

LINCOLN ROOM

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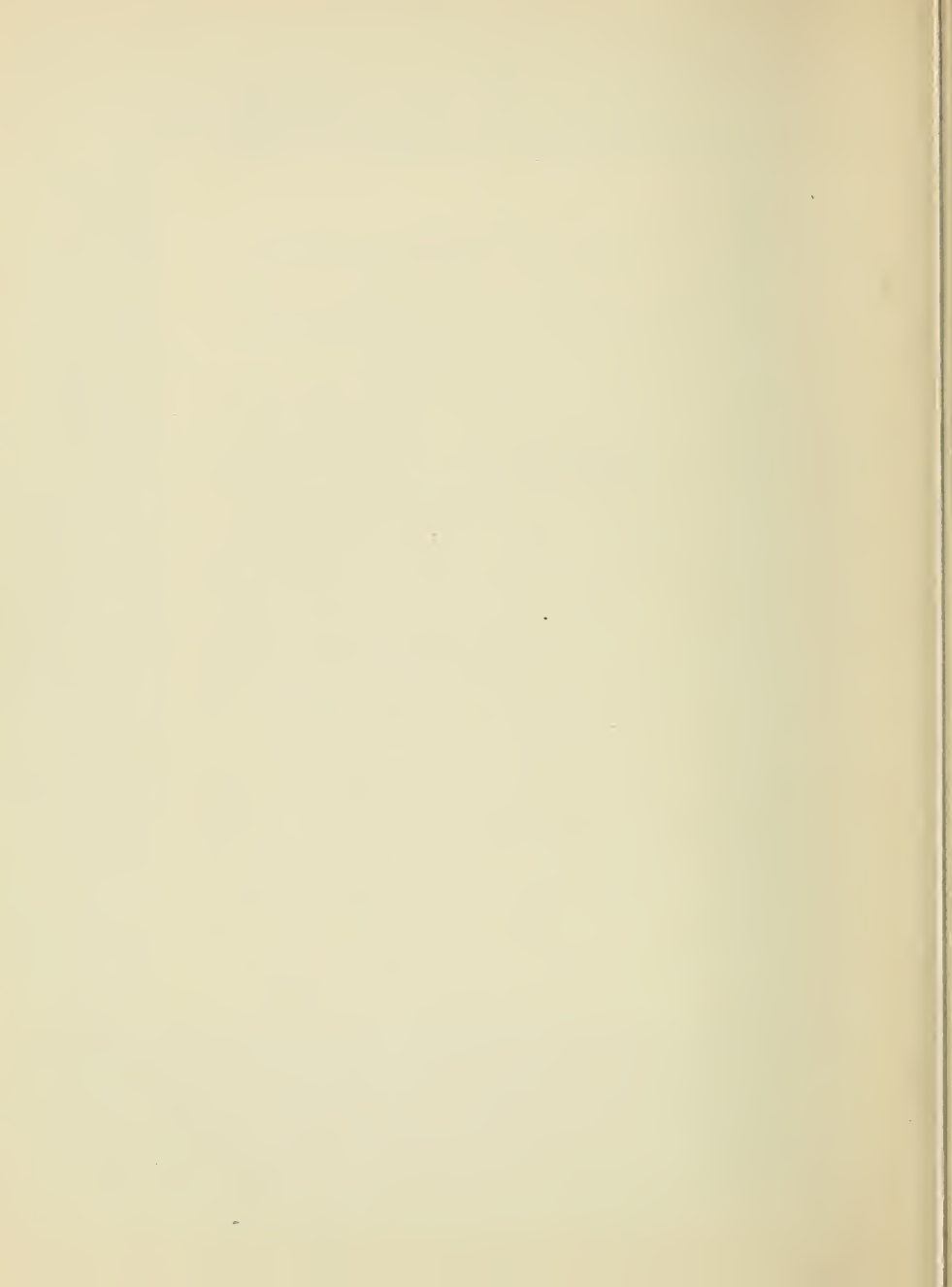
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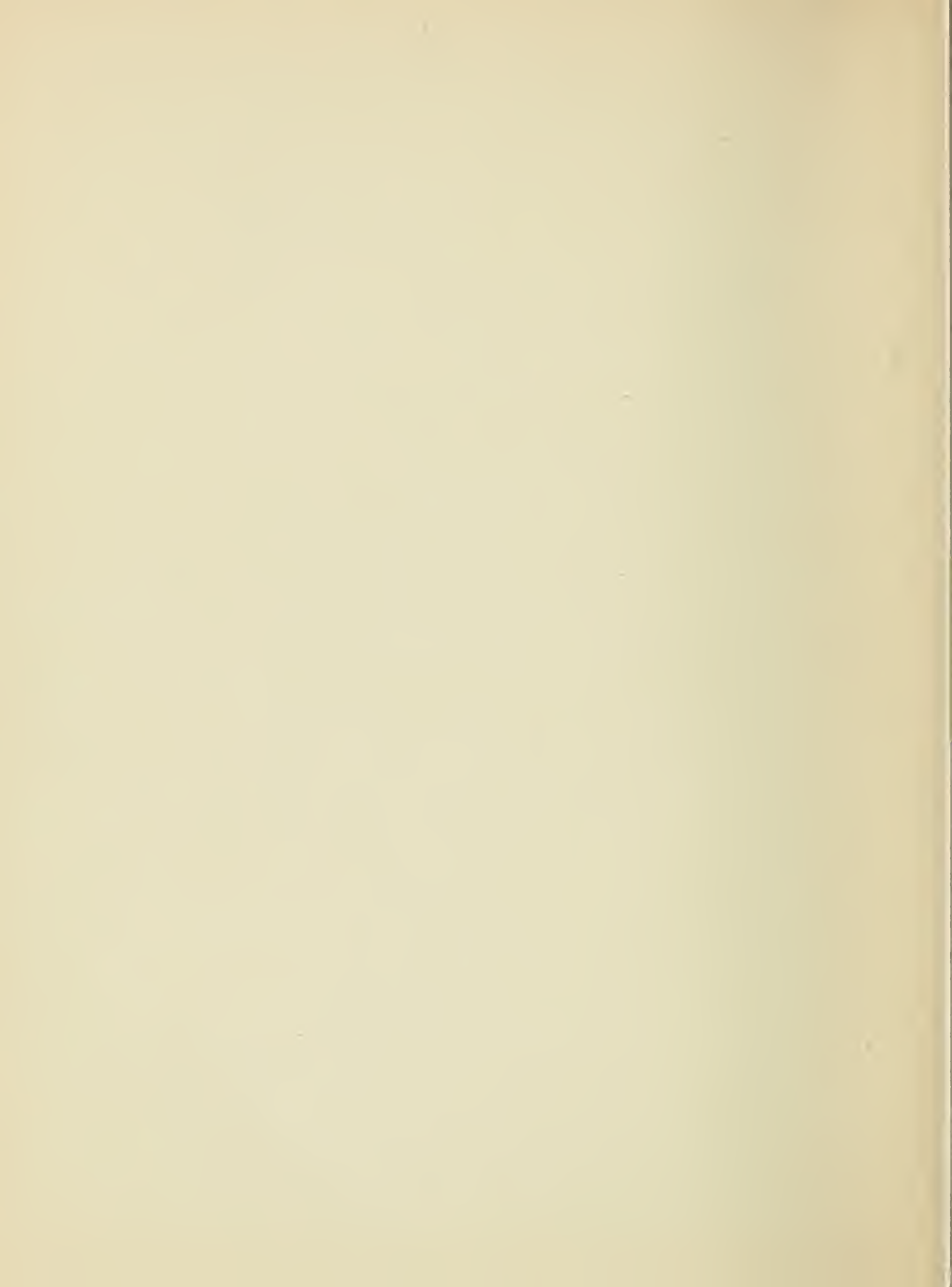
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Address by
HENRY B. RANKIN

Opening the Campaign
To Raise a Million Dollars

To Establish

The
Abraham Lincoln University
Springfield, Illinois

*"Wise councils may accelerate, or
mistakes delay, but sooner or later, the
victory is sure to come."*

Lincoln, 1856. Lincoln University, 1924.

May 15, 1924

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Lincoln
Burr

9 May 56 L. Allen

This address was prepared at the request of the Trustees of The Abraham Lincoln University, by Henry B. Rankin. It was delivered at **Lincoln's Tomb** on the occasion of placing a wreath on the sarcophagus, May fifteenth, nineteen hundred twenty-four.

No occasion, event, or opportunity in Springfield since the Nation brought Abraham Lincoln to his home in this City, that his body should be with us forever, equals in importance the purpose that brings us to this tomb on the anniversary of his last home-coming.

We are here today to place a wreath on Lincoln's tomb as a pledge at this place, as in his presence, and from

this hour, "that we here highly resolve" and bear away with us from this sacred occasion, an inspiration that there shall arise in this City Lincoln loved so sincerely, a monument more enduring than the granite shaft at which we now reverently stand. "It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this."

Beside this tomb and with us are the First Trustees whose delightful work before them and their successors, is to organize, erect and

endow as monumental to his life and services, The Abraham Lincoln University in this Capital City of Illinois as a Memorial to perpetuate here in our City, by and in human hearts and minds, the warm pulsations of patriotism of which Abraham Lincoln was so inspiring an example.

Oh, Lincoln! We are here to meet you again. More than sixty-three years ago the Nation took you from us for its President, as an untried man. You took the

reins as Chief Executive of the Nation in perilous times from the trembling hands of a retiring President. You measured up to the task. Though you had a Quaker's hatred of war, you said to those who would rend the Union asunder: "We will not go out, and you shall not."

Through four long years, your endurance, your fertility of resources, your magnanimity, your patience, were sorely tried, but never found wanting. Never rash,

never vindictive, keeping a kind heart, but a firm hand toward friend and foe alike, you became more and more firm under each successive disaster, whether by political foes in legislative halls, or military campaigns amid fire and blood and tears.

Oh, Lincoln! Fifty-nine years ago the Nation brought back home to us your lifeless form to rest forever here among your neighbors and friends. You were returned not as ours any more, but the Nation's; nay, not this

Nation's only, but the
World's. We raised this
shaft of granite above you
amid the anguish of sad
thoughts and bitter, but
proud tears. We hold sacred
to preserve as you left it, the
humble home you had among
us. We have inscribed bronze
tablets at all places in our
City made sacred by events
in your life while living here.
The State of Illinois on its
Capital Grounds has builded
you its Centennial Memo-
rial. Last, but greatest of
all, a grateful Nation at its

Capital presented to the World one of the most magnificent memorials ever erected to man.

But we cannot rest satisfied by these expressions of our devotion and our appreciation of your character and services. They all are only reminders of you. Oh, Lincoln! You were too warm of heart and vital through your life to be measured in death by granite and bronze. They, each one, are as voiceless as your silent lips are now beneath this shaft of granite.

[The wreath is placed on the sarcophagus]

By this wreath we place on Lincoln's tomb today, we wish to symbolize The Abraham Lincoln University. This wreath has no end in its intertwining circle. No part in it is so large as claiming to be all; nor leaf, nor twig, so small as not to be an essential part. So may and will be built, this Abraham Lincoln University for the Ages, with no contributors so large as to think they are all of it, nor none so small but what they are forever to be a part of it.

Lincoln, oh, Lincoln! We are here today to place this wreath above you, to witness and consecrate our resolve by its endless circle that we shall in this City build an University home for the indwelling of the Abraham Lincoln spirit, and whose sacred halls, rooms and spacious grounds shall be filled with the young men and women who will come after us. Here is to be an University "of the people," erected "by the people," for the common people of whom you

said, "God must love because He made so many of them." It shall be built and from its classic halls in your home city, there will go forth a current of never ending intelligence to valiantly broadcast the Lincoln message that this Nation shall have at every call, for all times, "new births of freedom," and "shall not perish from the earth."

Standing at Lincoln's tomb today and pledging the building of an University bearing his name and inspired by his

spirit and devotion, we are admonished by his life to overcome all difficulties and discouragements in the spirit with which he met those before him. Let us recall Lincoln's words uttered in the dark days of his strife in 1856 when he faced at his old home near New Salem an audience of his turbulent neighbors and former friends, who were then no longer such. To them he said, with calm assurance, what can be, what must be, our watchword in this endeavor:

“Wise councils may accelerate, or mistakes delay, but sooner or later the victory is sure to come.”

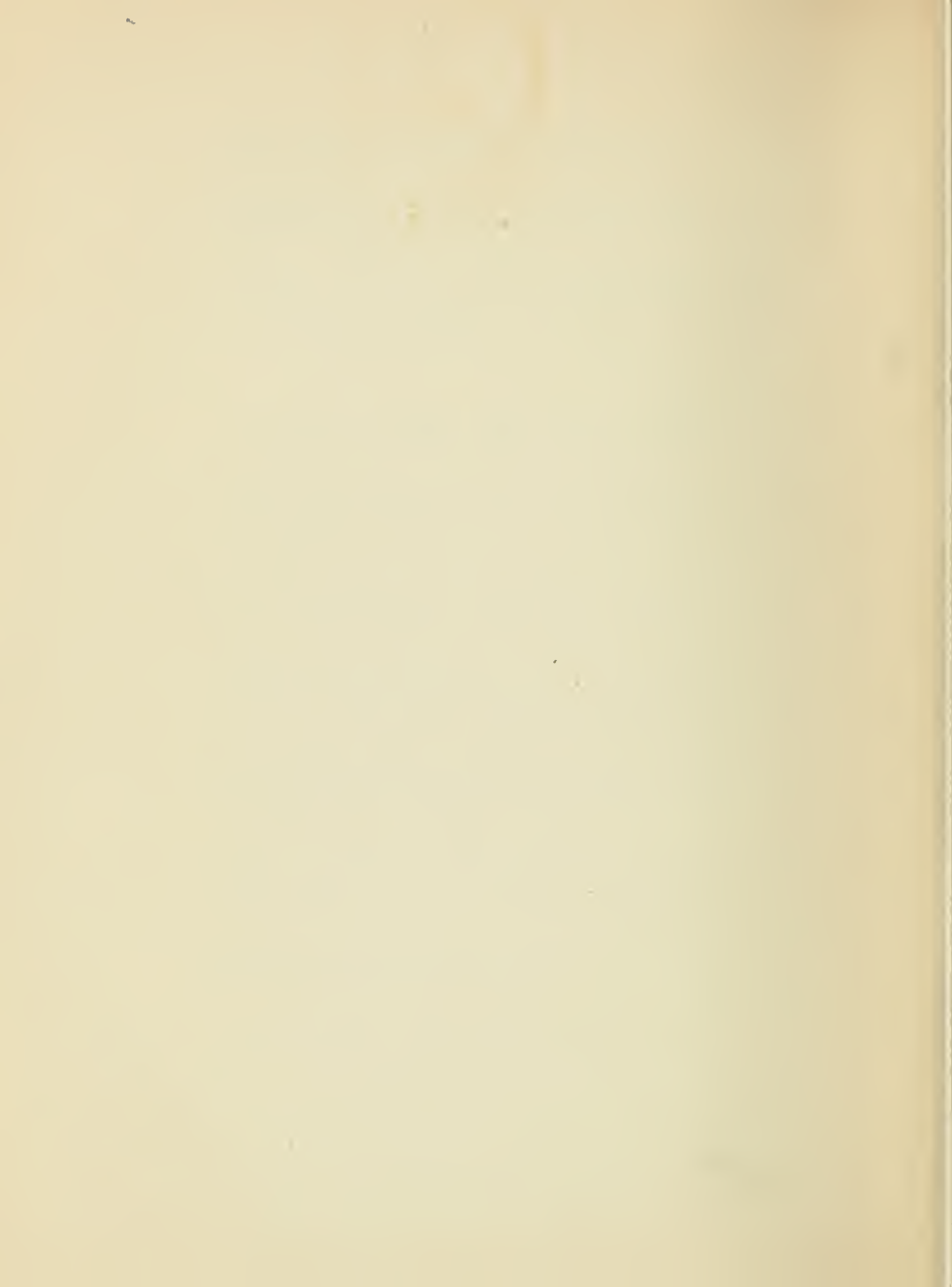
With this inspiring slogan we pledge at this tomb today our devotion to the founding of an University in memory of our most illustrious citizen and the Nation's First American. “It is for us to be here dedicated to the great task before us.”

Looking back across a century of American history, no other personality towers so

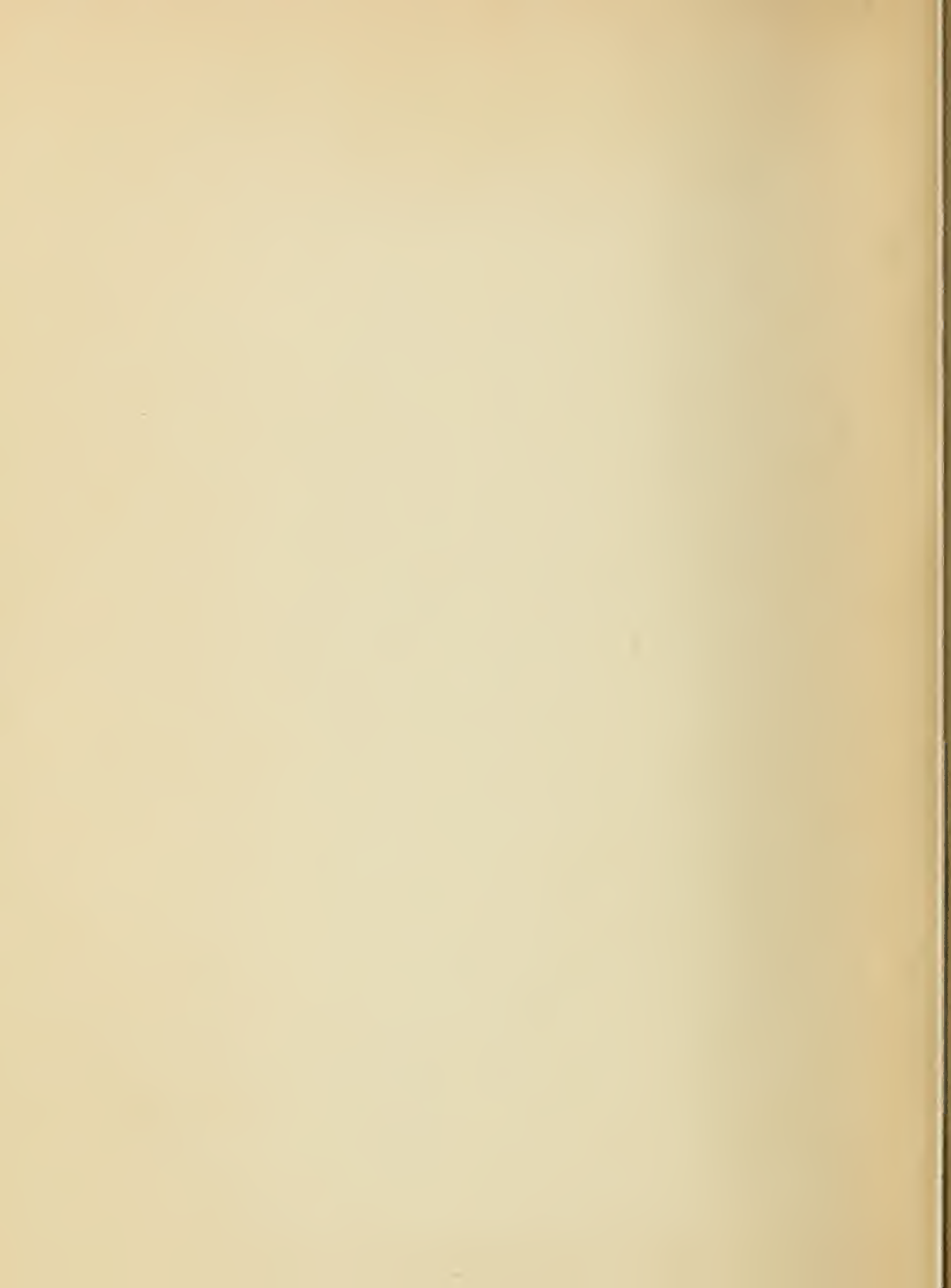
high in the admiration of mankind, or casts so benign a light upon the character and destiny of our Republic, as that of Abraham Lincoln. He stands today, more than a century after his birth, the most unique and unforgettable figure in our history and one of the mighty spirits of the race. He rendered not only unto Caesar the things that were Caesar's, to the States the things that were the States'; but he stood above those of his time in waiting patiently, serenely,

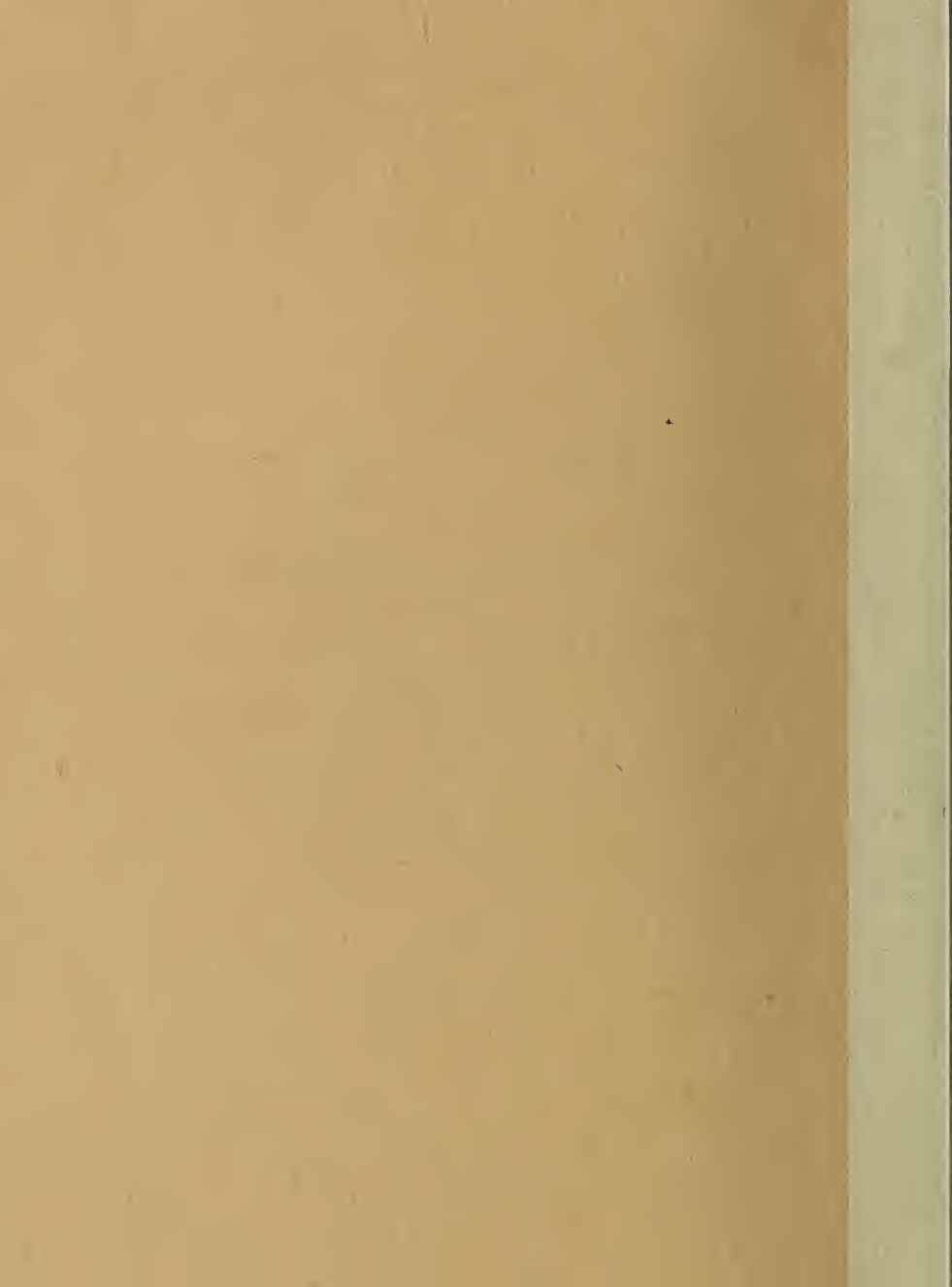
inflexibly, to lead his countrymen to render to God the things His justice required in national life.

Such a man the time and the task demanded, and God in His providence gave to his country and his race, Abraham Lincoln. He was equal to every opportunity, he accomplished his mission, and of his influence, on and through this University, there will be no end.









UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA

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